



ZEBRAS GIRAFFES AND OSTRICHES are a few of the exotic animals that will roam free on the new wildlife preserve in Prince George's County.

Wild animals will roam farm

Safari opens Monday

By ANDY PLATTNER
Staff Writer

The only things most people expect to see along the roads of Prince Georges County are hamburger stands and political advertisements.

Now, along Central Avenue, one can see elephants, lions and rhinos.

Opening Monday near Largo is ABC's Wildlife Preserve with all the free-roaming animals this side of Africa. The highlight of the show is driving in your own car through three preserves.

The preserves—North American, South American and African—feature wild animals, in approximately their natural habitat from three continents.

In addition to the 2½ mile drive, there will also be an entertainment center with a bird-of-prey show and exotic bird demonstrations.

Admission to the preserve will be \$3.75 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Children under five are admitted free. The charge allows visitors to drive through as many times as desired and parking is free. The once-around drive takes approximately 45 minutes.

There are picnic facilities within the park and refreshment stands near the entertainment area.

An Evening Capital reporter and photographer were shown through the almost-complete park yesterday. The park was bustling with assorted construction crews scrambling to put finishing touches on the park for Monday's opening.

The facilities compare and those near completion are quite impressive. The 405-acre site with rolling hills and majestic old trees was formerly a farm and is an excellent spot to feel alone with wild animals, although there could be 6,000 other people in the park.

The drive-through is interrupted by tall locked gates designed to keep certain animals in certain areas. A security person will be on hand to open and close the gates.

The preserve will be open daily from April 1 to Oct. 31. According to a preserve spokesman, plans are being made to be partially open during the winter as well.

The preserve, which will employ about 250 people, features lions, elephants, rhinos, elk, giraffes, deer, bison, zebras, bears, primates and dozens of other species, including birds and reptiles. It is located on Rte. 214, south of Rte. 301.

Bastille Day tonight

On July 14, 1789, the citizens of Paris ran wild in the streets, after toppling the government and liberating the Bastille, an infamous French prison.

On July 14, 1974, citizens of Annapolis also may run wild in the streets, but this time they have the permission of the government, and it is unlikely the County Detention Center will be stormed.

The City Council has given permission to close off a portion of Main Street between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. Sunday for the annual celebration of Bastille Day.

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